

THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE CAPTURING DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A three-dimensional image capturing device comprises an
imaging device, such as a CCD, having a plurality of photo-diodes,
a vertical transfer unit and a substrate. The plurality of
photo-diodes is separated into a plurality of groups and each
of the groups can be controlled independently. A distance
10 measuring light beam having a predetermined pulse width is
radiated to a measurement subject and a reflected light beam,
generated by the measurement subject due to the distance measuring
light beam, is sensed by the photo-diodes, so that a distance
information sensing operation which detects distance
15 information of the measurement subject is executed. In the
distance information sensing operation, only predetermined
groups of the photo-diodes are used for sensing the distance
information, while in an image information sensing operation,
which detects an image of the measurement subject, all
20 photo-diodes in the CCD are used.